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(54) Title: MUTANTS OF MYCOBACTERIA AND PROCESS THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides mutant *Mycobacterium* strains harboring a modified tyrosine phosphatase gene (*mptpA or mptpB*) wherein the mutant *Mycobacterium* strain is incapable of expressing the active tyrosine phosphatase. The invention provides a method for developing the said mutant strain from either *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or *Mycobacterium bovis*. The *mptpA* or *mptpB* gene may be modified by replacing the internal sequences with an antibiotic resistance marker gene, which disrupts the expression of the active gene. The invention further provides a recombinant vector comprising the modified *mptpA* or *mptpB* which may be used to develop the mutant strains of mycobacteria. The invention provides a method to assess the role of tyrosine phosphatases MptpA and MptpB in the virulence and pathogenesis of *Mycobacterium* which can be used as potential targets for developing anti-tubercular drug.

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